



DOCKET NO.: S1459.70060US00

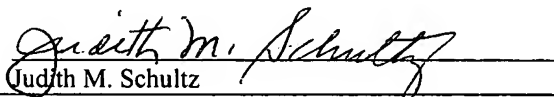
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Seiji Sato et al.  
Serial No: 10/656, 828  
Confirmation. No.: 8426  
Filed: September 5, 2003  
For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD,  
RECORDING MEDIUM, AND PROGRAM  
Examiner: Not yet assigned  
Art Unit: 2673

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2004.

  
Judith M. Schultz

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT FILED PURSUANT TO THE DUTY OF  
DISCLOSURE UNDER 37 CFR §§1.56, 1.97 AND 1.98

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the Applicant requests consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

PART I: Compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97

This Information Disclosure Statement has been filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the above-identified case.

No fee or certification is required.

PART II: Information Cited

The Applicant hereby makes of record in the above-identified application the information listed on the attached form PTO-1449 (modified). The order of presentation of the references should not be construed as an indication of the importance of the references.

The Applicant hereby makes the following additional information of record in the above-identified application.

The applicant would like to bring to the Examiner's attention the following co-pending applications that may contain subject matter related to this application:

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Inventor(s)</u>
10/656,843	September 5, 2003	Seiji Sato et al.
10/656,829	September 5, 2003	Hidehiko Sekizawa

PART III: Remarks

Documents cited anywhere in the Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed unless otherwise indicated. It is respectfully requested that:

1. The Examiner consider completely the cited information, along with any other information, in reaching a determination concerning the patentability of the present claims;
2. The enclosed form PTO-1449 be signed by the Examiner to evidence that the cited information has been fully considered by the Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application;
3. The citations for the information be printed on any patent which issues from this application.

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that a search has been performed, of the extent of any search performed, or that more relevant information does not exist.

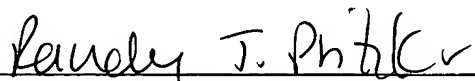
By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, in fact, prior art as defined by 35 U.S.C. §102.

Notwithstanding any statements by the Applicant, the Examiner is urged to form his own conclusion regarding the relevance of the cited information.

An early and favorable action is hereby requested.

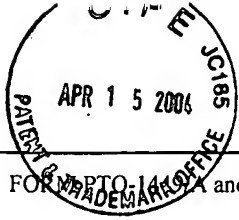
Respectfully submitted,  
*Seijo Sata et al., Applicant*

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Docket No. S1459.70060US00

Date: April 12, 2004

**XNDDX**



<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>		APPLICATION NO.: 10/656,828		ATTY. DOCKET NO.: S1459.70060US00	
		FILING DATE: September 5, 2003		CONFIRMATION NO.: 8426	
		APPLICANT: Seiji Sato et al.			
		GROUP ART UNIT: 2673		EXAMINER: Not yet assigned	
Sheet	1	of	1		

#### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials	Cite No.	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication or of issue of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY
		Number	Kind Code		

#### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document (not necessary)	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Translation (Y/N)
		Office/ Country	Number	Kind Code			
	1	Japan	2002-159024	A	Fuji Photo Film Co. Ltd.	05-31-2002	Abstract
	2	Japan	2001-333327	A	Fuji Photo Film Co. Ltd.	11-30-2001	Abstract
	3	Japan	2001-012927	A	Fuji Photo Film Co. Ltd.	01-19-2001	Abstract
	4	Japan	2001-119620	A	Minolta Co. Ltd.	04-27-2001	Abstract
	5	Japan	11-355624		Fuji Photo Film Co. Ltd.	12-24-1999	Abstract
	6	Japan	11-046373		Sony Corp.	02-16-1999	Abstract

#### OTHER ART — NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials	Cite No	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS) title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, relevant page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation (Y/N)	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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#EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

\*a copy of this reference is not provided as it was previously cited by or submitted to the office in a prior application, Serial No. \_\_, filed \_\_, and relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120 (continuation, continuation-in-part, and divisional applications).

[NOTE - Must provide a copy of any patent, publication, other information listed, even if it was previously submitted to, or cited by, the U.S. Patent Office in an earlier application, unless the earlier application is identified by the IDS and is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120, and the copy was provided in the earlier application.]